

Unfolding Identities: Resources for classroom use

Workshop 1

Ground Rules and Terminology

Terminology Sheet

Identity Labels

Consider these terms;

Discuss which, if any, would you use to identify other people?

Which, if any, would you use to identify yourself?

Are any of the terms '**tricky**' or are there any that you would like to get rid of?

Are there any terms that are **not** here that you would prefer to identify with?

British Asian

Black British

Mixed race

English

British

White

Ethnic Minority

Chav

Coloured

Goth

Nerd

Workshop 2

Prejudice and Stereotyping - Film images x 5

1. Matilda



2. Aaron



3. Sarah



4. Mrisi



5. Natasha



Workshop 2

Film Extracts

Extract 1

Discuss the following extract from Mrisi's film:

How is Mrisi being stereotyped?

What are your views about what he is saying?

Have you had any experiences that compare to this experience?

How people see me, it's weird because you've got my friends and my family, they see me how anyone who knows me sees me I suppose, but then it's kind of annoying, because I've had experiences where I've met a new person, it tends to happen with a lot of white people and adults as well as children, they expect that I'm a troublesome person or I'm going to go out and rob someone. Like I'll be walking down the street and I see a group of teenagers and they'll all move out of the way, out of my path, even if I move to the side to let them pass, they'll still kinda seem wary, seem difficult around me, just because they've never seen me before and I'm mixed race.

Extract 2

Discuss the following extract from Mrisi's film

How is Mrisi being stereotyped?

What are your views about what he is saying?

Have you had any experiences that compare to this experience?

Most of my friends, my day- to- day friends are white. I mean I have a lot of black friends, don't get me wrong, but the majority of my friends in this town are white. We'll be in a situation where people will come up to me and be talking about my race and my skin colour and my culture or whatever and we'll just laugh about it because I know none of it is true, none of what these people are trying to say is true and my white friends understand that. I mean, I don't even like to call them my white friends, they're just my friends, do you know what I mean?

Extract 3

Discuss the following extract from Mrisi's film

How is Mrisi being stereotyped?

What are your views about what he is saying?

Have you had any experiences that compare to this experience?

And also you get the other side with girls, like the whole black baby thing, which they seem to think that just because I'm black I'm going to act in a certain way which they want me to act which is like maybe I'm going to be a bad boy or do this or that. Its hard, but I hate to say it that sometimes it works to your advantage but sometimes its bad because sometimes I want to keep to myself.

Workshop 3

Britishness

Britishness Quiz Questions

1. Black people have been in Britain since?

ROMAN TIMES

ELIZABETHAN TIMES

VICTORIAN TIMES

SINCE 1950's

ROMAN TIMES

2. Who said, when speaking about the influx of Black people to Britain, that they should be repatriated, using these words

“of which kind of people there are already here too many”

ELIZABETH 1

DISRAELI

HAROLD WILSON

ENOCH POWELL

ELIZABETH 1

3. Roughly how many Black soldiers of Caribbean origin died fighting for the Allies during the 2nd World War?

5,000

10,000

15,000

20,000

20,000

4. What is the name of the mixed race woman who nursed cholera victims in the Crimean war and of whom it was written in the Times, in September 1848?

“She was present at many battles, and at the risk of her life carried the wounded off the field”

Mary Seacole

5. In what year was the first Asian M.P. elected to the House of Commons?

1892, Dadabhai Naoroji

6. Which is the largest ethnic minority group in the UK today?

The Irish

7. What is the most widely spoken language in the world?

Mandarin Chinese. It is spoken by 1, 034 million people

Workshop 3

Quotes taken from the young people appearing in the films

Aaron:

I don't really know what else I would do if not for music.

I think I'd put myself a bit closer to the British side because I was born and bred in Britain and a lot of my friends are English as well,

My friends would describe me as a joker, laid back and stubborn, because I'm very stubborn.

My mum and my dad are probably my most trusted advisors.

I've got the characteristics that I'm also quite happy with what I've got whereas I think a lot of English people are never quite happy with what they've got; they always want a bit more, but Eritreans seem to be content with what they've got.

Brighton's nice - once again there's quite a lot of different people there so I don't feel very 'the odd one out' if you know what I'm trying to say - there's a lot of different people so it doesn't really matter if you're the odd one out 'cos there's definitely another odd one out, so it doesn't matter.

Being the same as everybody else and having nothing very distinctive about you. I think it would be slightly boring having straight hair, yeah. I wouldn't be as unique as I am, I think. I'm happy to say I've got an eternal tan, which is very cool and I don't look English either or at least I don't think I do, do I?

Natasha:

I love it, I love it so much, I love like when you think nobody else is there and it is just like Dancing and its like, 'Yeah'.

I hate the English weather, its always really drizzly and wet and horrible.

My great grandfather, he had 12 children and he sent them off to different parts of the world, so I have family everywhere that I don't know, which is quite funny because I could be walking past them in the street and not know them.

I've never been to Italy but I like knowing that I'm Italian because it's something different about me, something unique compared to the rest of my friends, which I love.

I bump into friends in the shopping centre all the time, that's why I love Brighton because you kind of know where everyone's going to be.

I think I'm mainly from Brighton, I'm like pure British, I love Brighton, I've lived here all my life, I've never been anywhere else for more than like a month so I always come back here,

Matilda:

I just really enjoy writing, I don't really know why, it's a way to express yourself and think about how other people think and feel,

I like reading, I just really enjoy the stories and the ideas and all the characters and finding out what's happening to them and I guess it's because my parents always used to read to me when I was little.

I love music most of the time when I'm in my room I'm listening to the radio or my i-tunes.

I feel like I'm from Sussex and I think that's because of having ancestors from the south of England and also walking around in the Downs and stuff it just makes you feel kind of connected.

It is generally quite a friendly school, I've only ever heard of two actual incidents of bullying.

In year 7 and year 8 I used to get stereotyped as a nerd but in year 9 we just stopped bothering about groupings so much and started thinking about being ourselves more.

Sarah:

I'm Sarah and I'm 15 years old. I'm a British Asian and I was born in Harrow, London. I'm Pakistani and I follow the religion of Islam. There are quite a few places that I consider as home. One of them is Brighton as I've lived here all my life.

I feel safe here and know my way around it quite well.

There are quite a few places that I consider as home. I feel safe here and know my way around it.

Ever since the 9/11 bombings... once I got asked if I was a terrorist – ever since then I've got racist abuse once or twice.

My cousins – they're like my brothers - I phone them at least once a week... My other sister Anisa, we're quite close as well. She's like my other half. She's like the only one who likes the stuff that I like as well – so we have a lot in common.

I think that every identity is flexible. I believe that everyone changes over time whether it be for better or worse. People change as often as fashion.

Mrisi:

It is good having that British culture and also the South African culture, it's good for myself, it's alright because it means that I'm different and it means that I can also relate to the 'not different'.

How people see me, it's weird because you've got my friends and my family, they see me how anyone who knows me sees me I suppose, but then it's kind of annoying, because I've had experiences where I've met a new person, it tends to happen with a lot of white people and adults as well as children, they expect that I'm a troublesome person or I'm going to go out and rob someone. Like I'll be walking down the street and I see a group of teenagers and they'll all move out of the way, out of my path, even if I move to the side to let them pass, they'll still kinda seem wary, seem difficult around me, just because they've never seen me before and I'm mixed race.

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And also you get the other side with girls, like the whole black baby thing, which they seem to think that just because I'm black I'm going to act in a certain way which they want me to act which is like maybe I'm going to be a bad boy or do this or that. Its hard, but I hate to say it that sometimes it works to your advantage but sometimes its bad because sometimes I want to keep to myself.

We'll be in situations where people will come up to me and start talking about me and my race and my skin colour and my culture and we'll just laugh because none of it is true.

There have been incidents when I have been in trouble, there have been incidents when I've feared for myself, there have been incidents when I've feared for myself there have been incidents when I've been really, really worried about what's going to happen. I've been in incidents where people have just been throwing racist jokes about, but no one really acknowledges it in Brighton.

If you're good at something, none of that race stuff matters, like boxing. If you've got a good boxer, they'll say 'like that black kid' or whatever, but it wouldn't matter because they're a good sportsman.

You've got water there, you've got food there, then you've got life, then you've got family, then you've got friends and then you've got music. I wouldn't say music is my life, that's rubbish because music is probably my most enjoyable thing to do when I do it well.